

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 29, 2016

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As legislators, we see the value that service brings to our communities and our nation and we continue to be inspired by everyday examples of civic engagement. As we look to the future, we view providing every American with service opportunities as a necessary step toward fostering active citizenship for the next generation. We therefore ask that you further your commitment to national service by requesting robust funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) in your Fiscal Year 2017 budget request to Congress.


It is clear that the localized, community-driven solutions exemplified by the CNCS' many programs, including AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps VISTA, present some of the most effective ways of solving our nation's most pressing challenges. Whether it's helping communities respond to disasters, inspiring our nation's children to succeed in school, or securing housing for low-income families, CNCS programs are positively impacting communities across the nation. Moreover, countless studies affirm the correlation between service and leadership. When we remove barriers to national service and give every American a chance to serve, we not only empower our communities, but also our nation's next generation of leaders to solve some of our most pressing challenges.


Moreover, the data demonstrates that supporting national service is a sound investment. A 2013 study conducted by the Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at Columbia University found a return of \$2.47 for every dollar invested in AmeriCorps. This amount reflects productivity gains, social gains, and taxpayer gains, as well as money that might otherwise be spent on the criminal justice system and social safety net programs. It is also important to note that these efforts are broadly supported by the private sector as well. CNCS leverages an additional \$870 million in private donations each year to support these initiatives. With five applicants for every AmeriCorps position, it is clear that demand far outweighs the federal government's investment in these programs. We must continue to fund CNCS and expand our commitment to national service.

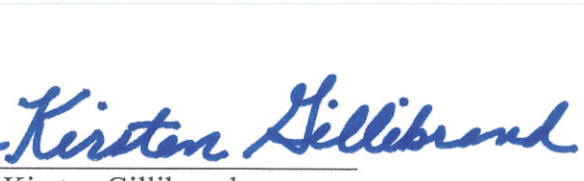
We believe that our nation faces complex challenges that require innovative, community-based solutions. Investing in CNCS is one of the most cost-effective ways our federal government can

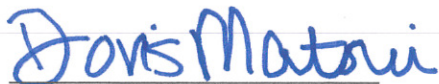
make a difference in the lives of millions of Americans. We therefore ask that your FY17 budget request to Congress include robust funding for CNCS.

Sincerely,

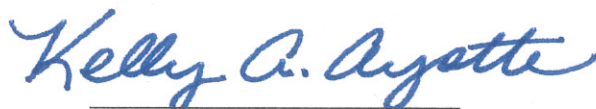

Seth Moulton
United States Representative



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

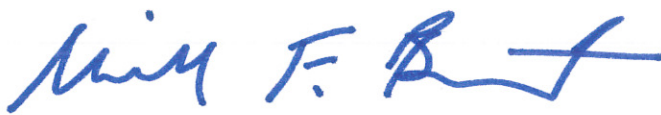

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Doris Matsui
United States Representative

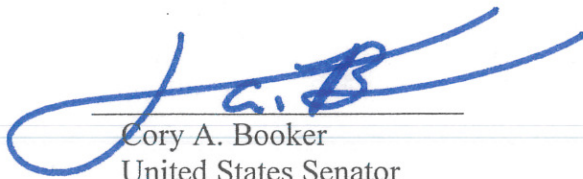

David E. Price
United States Representative


Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

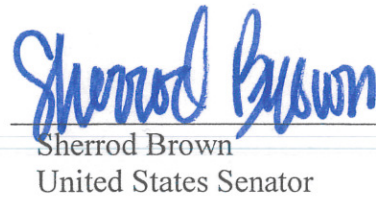

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



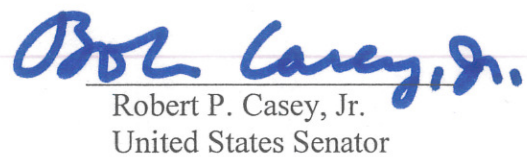
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



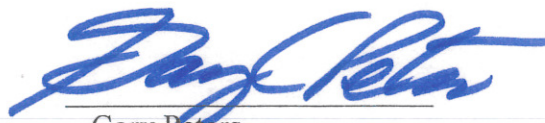
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Joseph Manchin, III
United States Senator



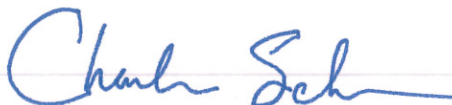
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



Bernie Sanders
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



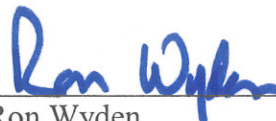
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



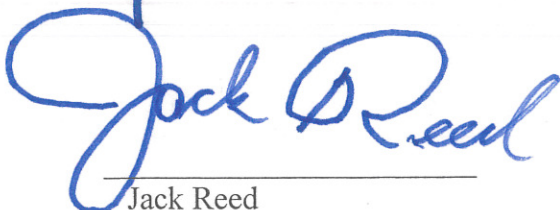
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



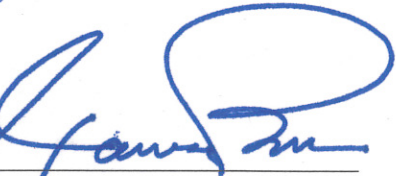
Karen Bass

United States Representative



Joyce Beatty

United States Representative



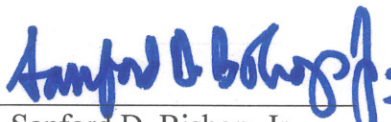
Xavier Becerra

United States Representative



Donald S. Beyer, Jr.

United States Representative



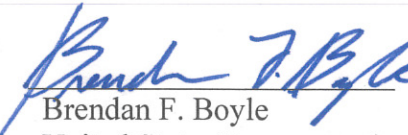
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

United States Representative



Earl Blumenauer

United States Representative



Brendan F. Boyle

United States Representative



Corrine Brown

United States Representative



Cheri Bustos

United States Representative



Michael E. Capuano

United States Representative



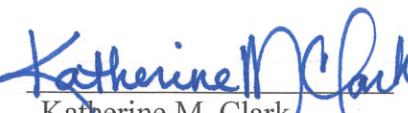
Tony Cárdenas

United States Representative



Matt Cartwright

United States Representative



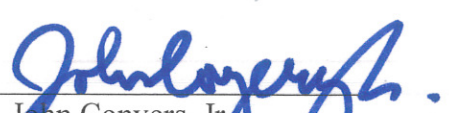
Katherine M. Clark

United States Representative




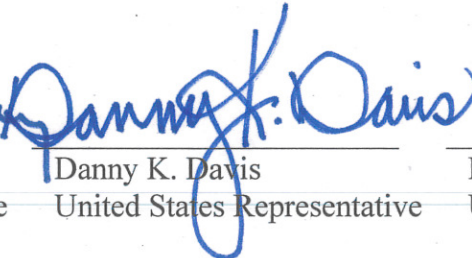

Yvette D. Clarke


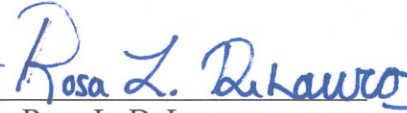
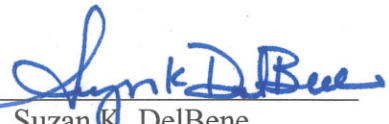
United States Representative


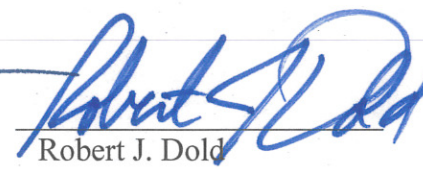
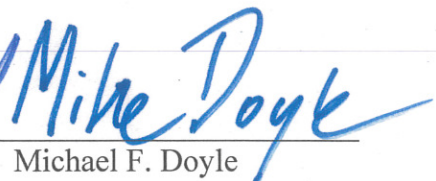


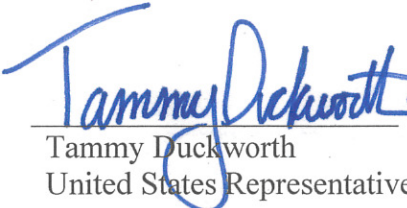

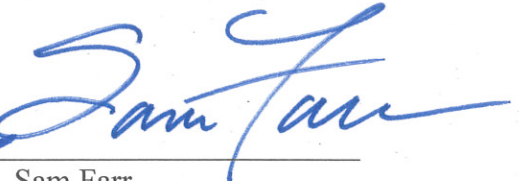
John Conyers, Jr.

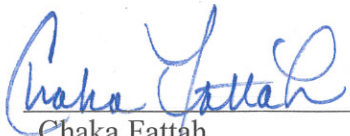

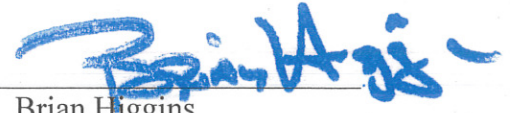
United States Representative

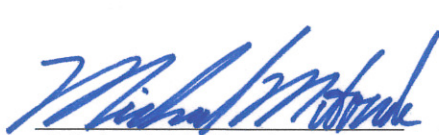
  
Joe Courtney Danny K. Davis Peter A. DeFazio
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative

  
John K. Delaney Rosa L. DeLauro Suzan K. DelBene
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Lloyd Doggett Robert J. Dold Michael F. Doyle
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Tammy Duckworth Keith Ellison Sam Farr
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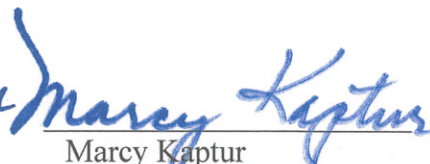
  
Chaka Fattah Alcee L. Hastings Brian Higgins
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Michael M. Honda
United States Representative




Eddie Bernice Johnson
United States Representative



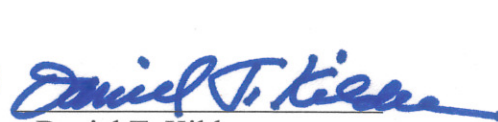
Marcy Kaptur
United States Representative



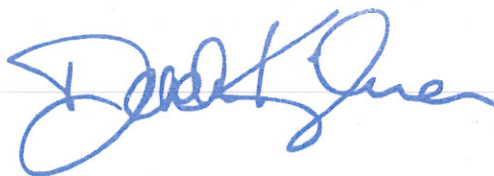
William R. Keating
United States Representative



Joseph P. Kennedy, III
United States Representative



Daniel T. Kildee
United States Representative



Derek Kilmer
United States Representative



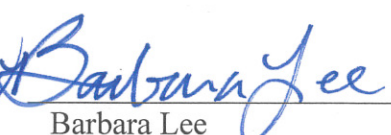
Ann McLane Kuster
United States Representative



John B. Larson
United States Representative



Brenda L. Lawrence
United States Representative



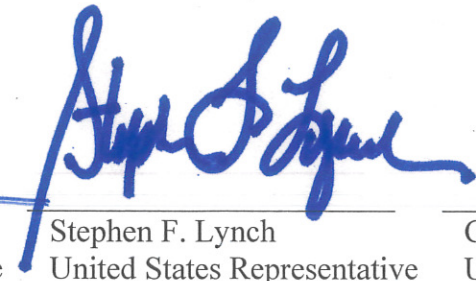
Barbara Lee
United States Representative



David Loebsack
United States Representative



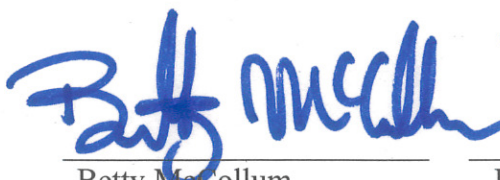
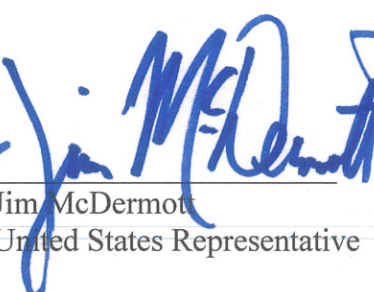
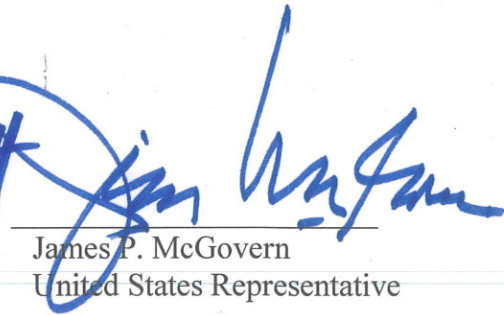
Zoe Lofgren
United States Representative

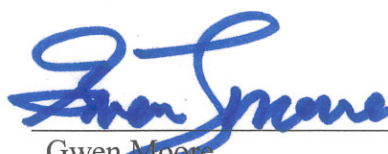

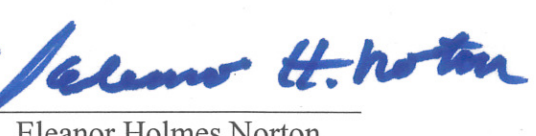


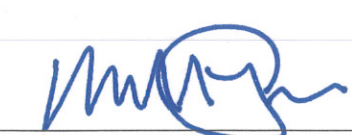
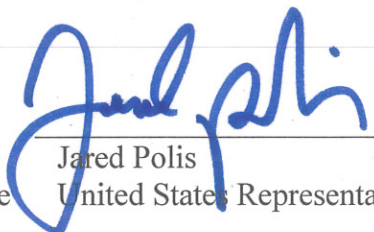
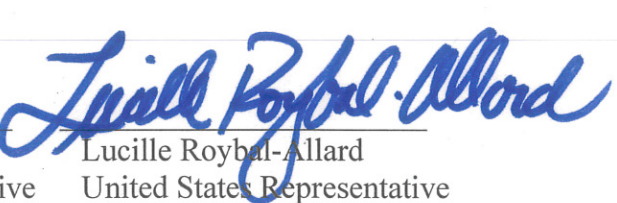
Stephen F. Lynch
United States Representative

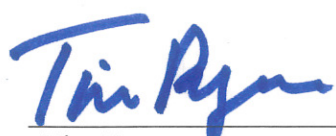






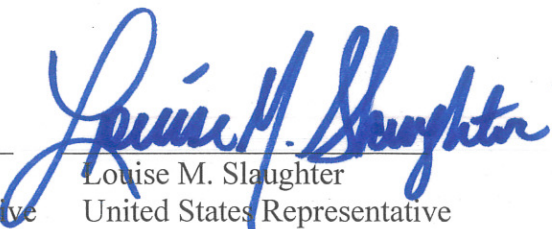
Carolyn B. Maloney
United States Representative

  
Betty McCollum Jim McDermott James P. McGovern
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative

  
Gwen Moore Richard E. Neal Eleanor Holmes Norton
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative

  
Mark Pocan Jared Polis Lucille Roybal-Allard
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative

  
Tim Ryan Loretta Sanchez John P. Sarbanes
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative

  
David Scott Robert C. "Bobby" Scott Louise M. Slaughter
United States Representative United States Representative United States Representative



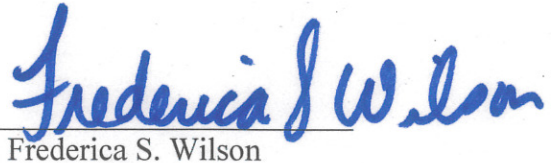
Niki Tsongas

United States Representative



Chris Van Hollen

United States Representative



Frederica S. Wilson

United States Representative

Cc: The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director, Office of Management and Budget